

# EDUCATION/JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT OUR SHARED YOUTH

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*A Presentation to the New Jersey State Board of Education*

January 3, 2018

Presentation By

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First Assistant Prosecutor  
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**Erica Hein, M.A.**

*System Reform Initiatives and State-Level School/Justice Partnership*

# Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

## JDAI Vision

*Youth in the juvenile justice system will have opportunities to develop into healthy adults.*



## JDAI Mission

*To demonstrate that jurisdictions can establish more effective and efficient systems to accomplish the purpose of juvenile detention.*

# JDAI is a Catalyst for Broader System Reform

- A core principle of JDAI is that effective collaboration is essential to successful system reform.
- Circa 2015, the New Jersey State Board of Education along with the New Jersey Department of Education partnered with the New Jersey Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement to convene an Education Subcommittee.
- The Committee meets regularly and its membership is represented across all disciplines.



# Goals and Achievements of the Education Subcommittee



## GOAL

Through a data-driven process, describe the scope/nature of school-based referrals to the juvenile justice system and develop and implement solutions to address any issues identified.

- Data analysis of school-based complaints revealed that most referrals to law enforcement are for low-level (i.e., misdemeanors) offenses; most informally diverted by the court.
- A request for information was distributed to all school districts to provide any promising approach or best practice that the school – as a strategy for reducing out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and referral to law enforcement, and for improving school climate – has implemented to intervene with youth who exhibit problematic behavior.

# Goals and Achievements of the Education Subcommittee



## GOAL

Through a data-driven process, identify the scope/nature of any system barriers faced by youth leaving detention and other juvenile justice out-of-home placements in terms of returning to/enrolling in school; develop solutions to any barriers identified.

- Data analysis revealed improvement needed to expedite the time a child enrolls in school upon reentry. The Juvenile Justice Commission, Office of Juvenile Parole and Transition Services implemented enhanced procedures to assist kids in enrollment 10 and 5 days prior to release, and 1 day after release.
- Members of the Subcommittee collaborated with the DOE in the development of *“Strategies to Support Students Returning to School After Confinement.”* This document provides information to New Jersey school districts regarding the needs of students entering and exiting confinement. The document covers: smooth transitions, appropriate placement, therapeutic support, multi-system collaboration with an identified transition coordinator, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress.

# Goals and Achievements of the Education Subcommittee



## GOAL

**Strengthen the partnership between the education and juvenile justice systems, raise awareness of issues relating to the intersection between the education and juvenile justice systems, and develop and promote best practice models for cross-system collaboration.**

- Forum on avoiding the school-to-prison pipeline: “Systems Working Together to Enhance Educational Opportunities for At-Risk Students” (October 2015)
- Small working groups of the Subcommittee to recommend policy/practice changes:
  - Reentry Workgroup
  - MOA Cross-walk
- Topical presentations to education and justice partners:
  - State Board of Education (strategic plan development)
  - Executive County Superintendents



# Benefits of Continued Partnership



- Increase collective impact
- Avoid duplication of efforts
- Share responsibility
- Coordinate resources
- Decrease youth involvement with JJS
- Assist schools
- Meet goals and objectives of Education Subcommittee and other local school/justice partnerships



## **Nancy Curry & Kelly Allen**

*Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between  
Education and Law Enforcement Officials*

# Education-Law Enforcement Workgroup

- Established in 1988.
- Comprised of representatives from the New Jersey Department of Education, the Office of the Attorney General and related professional organizations.
- Committed to working together as partners to address substance abuse and other issues affecting school-aged children.
- Reconvened in 1992, 1999, 2007, 2011, 2015 & 2017.

# What is the MOA Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials?

- The MOA is a signed agreement between law enforcement & education officials.
- Purpose: To establish effective cooperation between education and law enforcement officials to ensure a safe educational environment.
- Annual adoption and implementation required by all:
  - Public school districts
  - Charter schools and Renaissance school projects
  - Jointure commissions
  - Educational services commissions
  - Approved private schools for students with disabilities

# Proposed Revisions: 2018 MOA

The Education-Law Enforcement Working Group is currently revising the MOA to:

- Re-organize in more user-friendly format.
- Ensure consistent language/terminology for school-based offenses.
- Provide more specific information on mandatory v. non-mandatory referrals to law enforcement.
  - Clarify when educators must notify law enforcement
  - Clarify how law enforcement should respond
- Promote meaningful dialogue and ongoing two-way collaboration between schools and law enforcement to best support students.

# Resources on the MOA

## MOA and Related Materials:

- Cover Letter from the Attorney General and Commissioner of Education
- MOA
- Guidance on Annual Review Procedures
- Summary of 2015 Revisions
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Technical Assistance Module – *Understanding the 2015 Revisions*

Found at: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/law/moa>



## Chief W. Harry Earle & Michelle Selfridge

*3<sup>RD</sup> Gear Policing: Building Trust and Promoting Positive Youth Development*

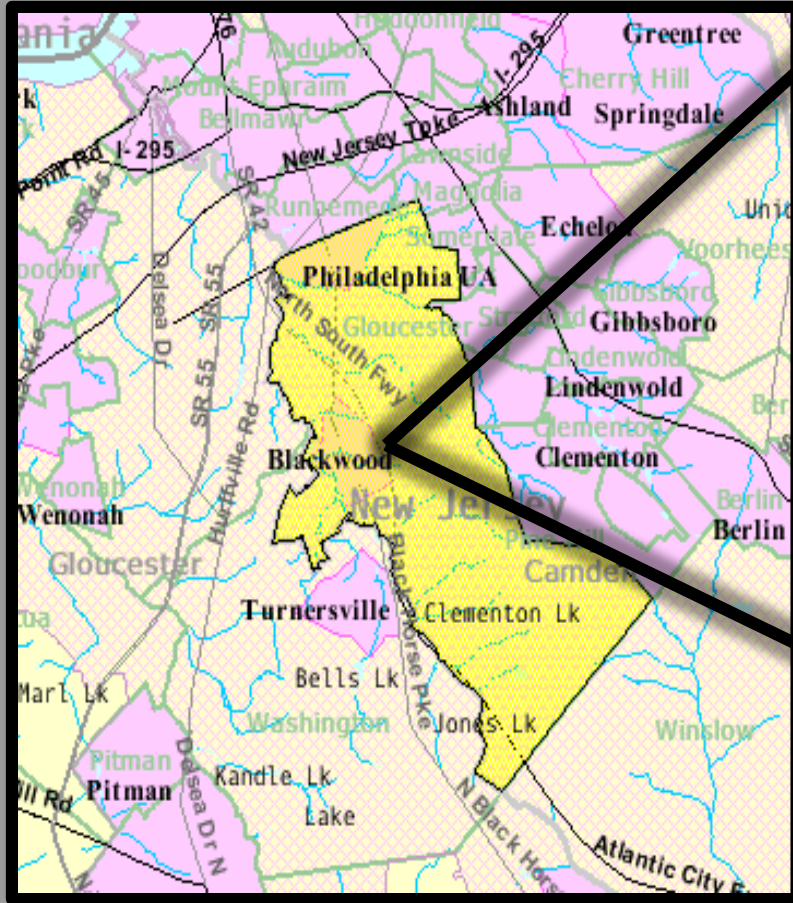


**3<sup>RD</sup> GEAR POLICING: BUILDING TRUST AND  
PROMOTING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**





# THE COMMUNITY OF GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP



Position	Full Time	Part Time	Total Number
Sworn Officers	127	0	131
Special Officers	0	32	39
Dispatchers	12	8	20
Civilian	12	5	17
Total	-	-	207

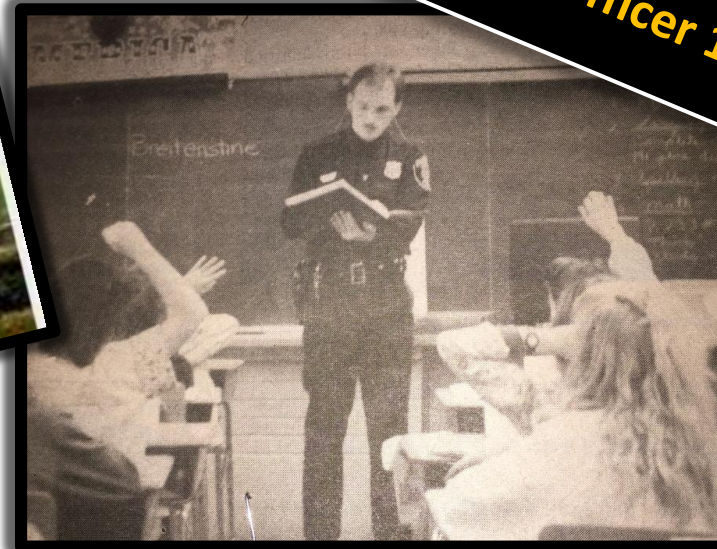
School Type	Total
Elementary	11
Middle	3
High	3



## CAREER AND CHANGE



**Police Officer 1988**



**Chief of Police  
2010**





# WHEN I GROW UP.....I WANT TO BE.....



# COMMUNITY POLICING = ADDRESSING SOCIAL DISORDER

## ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

### ABUSE



**MOTHER TREATED  
VIOLENTLY**



**EMOTIONAL ABUSE**



**MENTAL ILLNESS IN HOME**



**PARENTAL SEPARATION OR  
DIVORCE**



**SEXUAL ABUSE**



**PHYSICAL ABUSE**



**PHYSICAL NEGLECT**



**CRIMINAL HOUSEHOLD  
MEMBER**



**HOUSEHOLD SUBSTANCE ABUSE**



**EMOTIONAL  
NEGLECT**

### HOUSEHOLD CHALLENGES

### NEGLECT





## 3<sup>RD</sup> GEAR POLICING AND “FIRST CONTACT”



TRUSTED ADULT



CHILDREN IN CRISIS

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE GENERAL ORDER						
TITLE:		INFORMATION SHARING WITH SCHOOLS			NEW	REVISED
						X
ORDER #:	G-2011-09		INITIAL ISSUE DATE:	9/12/2011	REVISED ISSUE DATE:	9/12/2017
POLICY REVIEW SCHEDULE:	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	OTHER	
				X		
# PAGES:	6	ISSUING AUTHORITY:		Chief Harry Earle		
ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION:	ALL PERSONNEL	SWORN PERSONNEL	SLEO PERSONNEL	DISPATCH PERSONNEL	CIVILIAN PERSONNEL	
		X				



## STATION HOUSE ADJUSTMENT AND DIVERSION

### STATION HOUSE ADJUSTMENT

2011-2014  
5%

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE  
STATION HOUSE ENRICHMENT REFERRALS  
2011 TO MARCH 2017

Referred:	362
Did Not Attend:	40
Did Not Complete:	32
Completed:	283

2008-2011  
30%







## STATION HOUSE ADJ. - UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES?



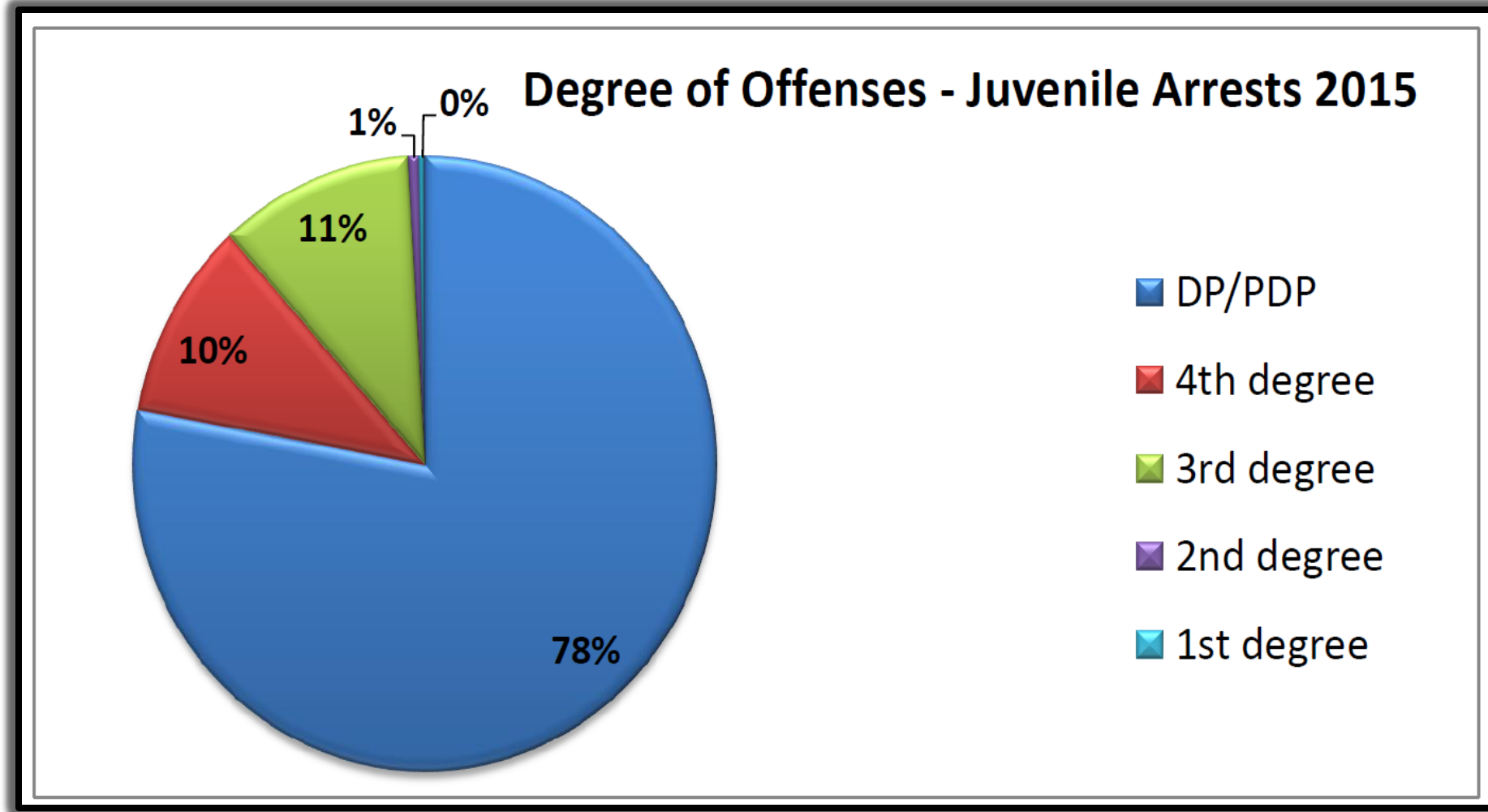
### STATION HOUSE ADJUSTMENT

G.T.	Getting to Know One Another
F	Finding Other Choices
O	Owning Anger and Other Feelings
C	Communicating With and Around Family
U	Understanding Drug Abuse and
S	

HANDSHAKES NOT HANDCUFFS



## STATION HOUSE ADJ. - UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES?

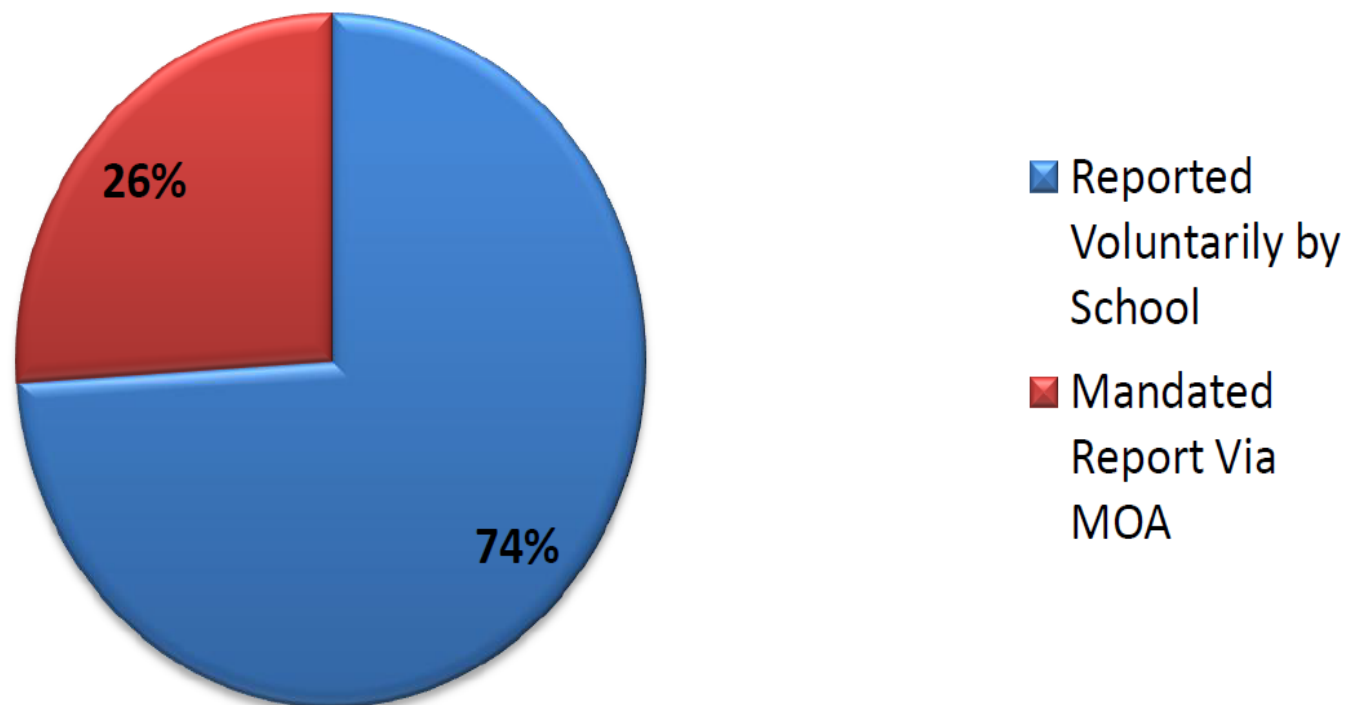






## STATION HOUSE ADJ. – UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES?

### Juvenile School Arrests 2015





## AVOIDING THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

### RELIANCE ON STATION HOUSE PROGRAM

**SEPT. 2015 –  
MARCH 2016**

Station House- School Based	74
Petitions- School Based	79

**STATION  
HOUSE  
↓63%**

### NEW PHILOSOPHY AND PAUSE

**SEPT. 2016 –  
MARCH 2017**

Station House- School Based	27
Petitions- School Based	45

**FORMAL JUV.  
CHARGES  
↓43%**



## SUSPENSIONS

16-006411

\_\_\_\_\_ (8 yoa). It was reported that the juvenile threatened to shoot another student with a BB gun while in class at the Gloucester Township School. His bedroom was checked for weapons with negative results. No complaints as incident was handled by the school. No RMS history. He received a 1 day suspension.

\_\_\_\_\_ (8 yoa). It was reported that the juvenile threatened to shoot another student with a BB gun while in class at the Gloucester Township School. His bedroom was checked for weapons with negative results. No complaints as incident was handled by the school. No RMS history. He received a 1 day suspension.

\_\_\_\_\_ (14 yoa) was placed on Juvenile Petitions for Harassment and Disorderly Conduct. It was reported that the accused threatened and threw a phone charger at another student while in class at Highland High School. During this incident he needed to be restrained by 2 teachers to stop him from assaulting the victim. Later in the day while in the cafeteria he attempted to start another fight with the same victim and spit in his face. RMS history of Theft and a Curfew violation. He was also a suspect in a cell phone theft and aggravated assault (no complaints). No further follow up at this time. Added to CNS. \*\*\* Received a 4 day suspension \*\*\*

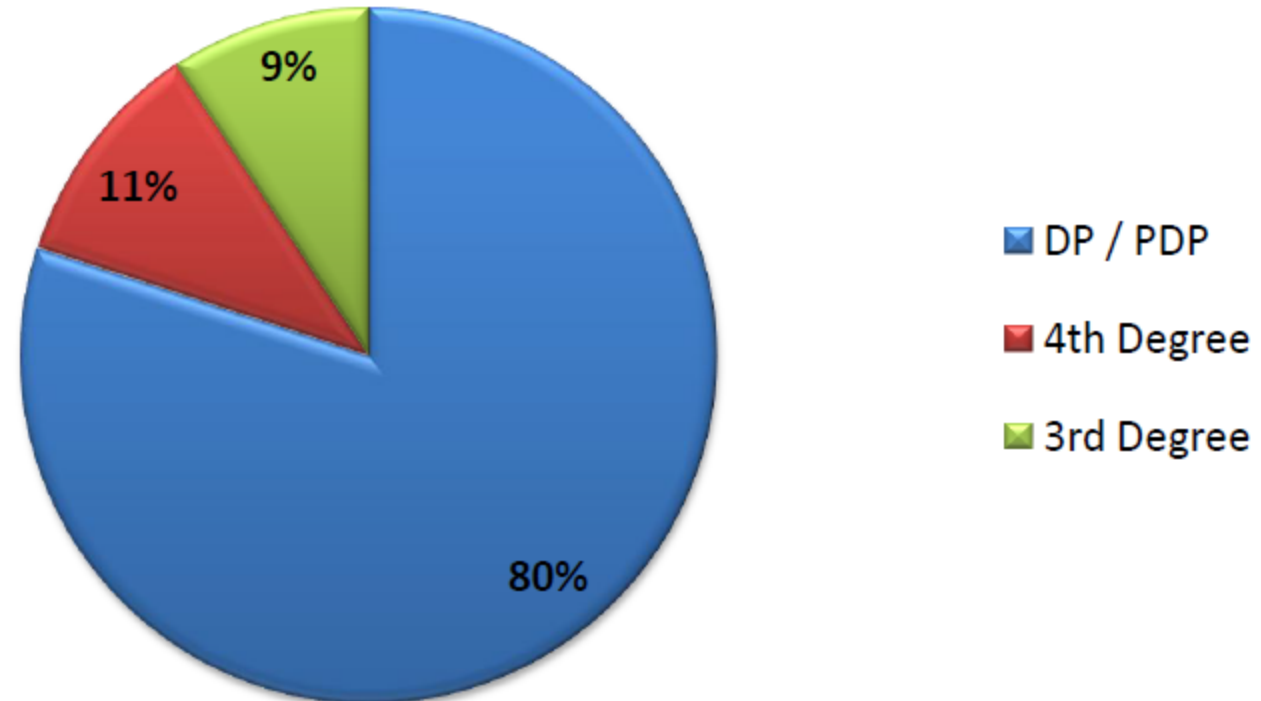
The student was then taken to the Gloucester Twp Station house and released.

\_\_\_\_\_ (10 yoa) was placed on Juvenile Petitions for Harassment and Disorderly Conduct. It was reported by another student that they witnessed the accused throw a chair into the back of his school bus seat. No RMS history. He will be placed on a "1 year rule". Received a 4 day suspension

No RMS history

\_\_\_\_\_ was reported by another student that they witnessed the accused throw a chair into the back of his school bus seat. No RMS history. He will be placed on a "1 year rule". Received a 5 day suspension \*\*\*

**2015 School Arrests Resulting in Suspension**





## KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF THE “SYSTEM”

### A Generation Later: What We've Learned about Zero Tolerance in Schools

Jacob Kang-Brown • Jennifer Trone • Jennifer Fratello

• DECEMBER 2013

.....a single suspension or expulsion for a discretionary offense that did not include a weapon almost tripled a student's likliehood of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system the following academic year.

FINAL REPORT OF

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON  
21ST CENTURY POLICING

MAY 2015

4.6.2 ACTION ITEM: In order to keep youth in school and to keep them from criminal and violent behavior, law enforcement agencies should work with schools to encourage the creation of alternatives to student suspensions and expulsion through restorative justice, diversion, counseling, and family interventions.

President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. 2015. *Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing*. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Kang-Brown, J., Trone, J., Fratello, J., & Daftary-Kapur, T. (2013). *A Generation Later: What We've Learned about Zero Tolerance in Schools*. New York: VERA Institute of Justice.





## AVOIDING SUSPENSIONS – PROJECT PAUSE

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT											
1. Department GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT		2. Mun. Code 0415	3. Phone Number 856-228-4500	4. CAD Incident# 2017-004284	5. Other Agency Case #	6. Department Case Number 2017-004284		JUVENILE			
7. Crime / Incident DISORDERLY CONDUCT		8. NJS 2C:33-2		9. Victim/s		10. SSN					
				11. Age	12. DOB	13. Sex	14. Race				
				22. Victim(s) Home Address		23. Home Phone / Cellular					
DATE	16. Between	17. Hour	18. Day	19. Mo.	20. Date	21. Yr.					

**STATION HOUSE ADJUSTMENT**

**PAUSE**  
A Suspension Reduction  
Program

Agent Michele Selfridge  
Gloucester Township Police Department



## UNDERSTANDING PAUSE

### Today you will:

- Learn something new about your **BRAIN** and what happens to it when you **PAUSE**.
- Picture your **MIND**. See yourself from the **OUTSIDE IN**.
- Be **CURIOUS** about people. Consider seeing others from the **INSIDE OUT**.
- Consider how easily a **BAD DECISION** becomes **WORSE**.

# The BRAIN



CHANGING YOUR MIND,  
CHANGES YOUR BRAIN





## EVERYONE HAS GOOD AND BAD DAYS

# Know How Your Mind Is Doing?



### The Real Challenge...

- Keep the other person's mind in mind
- Be curious about where he/she is coming from
- Realize you don't KNOW what the person thinks,  
only what he/she MIGHT BE thinking
- Imagine what might be going on with the person
- EXPLORE OPTIONS



## PAUSE AND THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

If you don't PAUSE  
When Bad Gets Worse

Suspension



Station  
House



Juvenile  
Petition

SRO McHugh





## PAUSE CRITERIA

### Criteria for Referral to PAUSE

- Any student who has committed an offense that results in suspension from school and the number of those suspension days can be reduced as a result of attendance.
- Students may be referred more than once to PAUSE, however, it should always be in lieu of suspension days.
- Generally - do not refer any student who has been arrested as a result of the offense.
- A maximum of 2 or 4 students should be assigned to each group depending on number of adults participating.



## PAUSE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Fighting or inciting to fight	2-10 days OSS 4 days PC PB CP CC PM RR CM + 100 pts + IP	OSS 10 days PM PB CC RR CP +100 pts + IP	OSS (10) SP PB CST* EX CC RR PM TWI +100 pts + IP
Assault/battery on Staff or Student	Consequences may include but are not limited to OSS SP CP CC CST* TWI RR EX PM Same Day ALD+AD +200 pts + IP		
Threatening a Staff Member or Student	OSS (1-10) PC CP CC PM +PB +100 pts + IP	OSS (5-10) PC CP CC PM +PB +125 pts + IP	OSS (10) SP CP CC PM+PB CST* EX TWI +150 pts + IP
Stealing/Theft	Minimum OSS (1) PM RR IP CP CC CM PB +25 pts	Minimum OSS (2) PM RR IP CP CC CM PB +50 pts	Minimum OSS (3) RR CP IP CM PM CC PB +100 pts Further disciplinary action
Arson/Defacing school property, building, grounds	Consequences may include but are not limited to minimum 5 ALDs AD AW CST* EX CC OSS PB PC PM RR SP TC CP TWI Same Day ALD+AD +10-50 100 pts		
Possession of fireworks/smoke bombs	Consequences may include but are not limited to minimum 5 ALDs AD AW CST* EX CC OSS PB PC PM RR SP TC CP TWI Same Day ALD+AD +10-50 100 pts		



## PAUSE OUTCOMES

# PAUSE

## The Challenge of Being in Control

55 STUDENTS= 140 Less  
Suspension Days

7 STUDENTS –Referred to  
Counseling outside the school

Increased relationship with  
administration/SRO through new  
vocabulary

Reduced Suspension positively  
affect eligibility for Senior Trip,  
Sports



## QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**FOLLOW US ON:**



**Harry Earle, Chief of Police**

[hearle@gtpolice.com](mailto:hearle@gtpolice.com)

**856-374-3505**

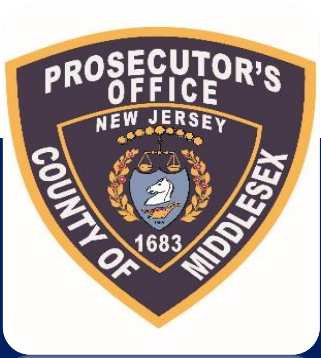
**Michelle Selfridge, LCSW**

[mselfridge@gtpolice.com](mailto:mselfridge@gtpolice.com)

**856-828-4968**

**DEDICATED TO SERVICE – COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE**





# Christopher L. C. Kuberiet

*Middlesex County School/Justice Partnership Initiatives*



# A School/Justice Partnership is the First Step to Breaking the “School-to-Prison Pipeline”

- The term “school-to-prison pipeline” broadly describes the phenomenon whereby youth are pushed out of the classroom through overly punitive discipline practices, such as zero tolerance policies, and into the juvenile justice system.
- In short, it is the criminalization of our youth through school-generated complaints.

# My Introduction to the “School-to-Prison Pipeline” Phenomenon

**Forum on Strategies to Break the  
“School-to-Prison Pipeline”**

October 20, 2015  
Eatontown, New Jersey

# School-Generated Complaints

## CHILD CHARGED WITH 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Resisting Arrest

***“Resisted arrest by flight,  
specifically by bicycling  
away from police after  
being told to stop.”***

[illegible]

## CHILD CHARGED WITH PDP Disorderly Conduct

***“Did commit disorderly conduct by doing bicycle tricks in the crosswalk during school dismissal.”***

# May 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016: School-Based Complaints Filed vs. Total New Complaints Filed, By County (Pilot)

	# of School-Based Complaints Filed	# of Total New Complaints Filed	% Within County	% Across All-Sites
Bergen	135	1391	9.7%	13.8%
Cape May	13	361	3.6%	1.3%
Cumberland	164	602	27.2%	16.8%
Essex	127	1971	6.4%	13.0%
Gloucester	115	648	17.7%	11.8%
Hudson	109	1177	9.3%	11.2%
Middlesex	199	1434	13.8%	20.4%
Monmouth	115	1273	9.0%	11.8%
TOTAL	977	8857	11.0%	100.0%

Across 8 counties in the pilot analysis, a total of 8,857 new complaints were filed with the Family Court and out of these, 977 (11.0%) were school-based. Individually, the proportion of school-based complaints ranged from a low of 3.6% in Cape May to a high of 27.2% in Cumberland.

# May 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016: School-Based Complaints Filed vs. Total New Complaints Filed, By Degree

	School-Based Complaints Filed		Total New Complaints Filed	
	#	%	#	%
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	3	0.3%	243	2.7%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	20	2.0%	720	8.1%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	212	21.7%	2017	22.8%
4 <sup>th</sup> Degree	241	24.7%	1216	13.7%
DP/PDP	501	51.3%	4661	52.6%
TOTAL	977	100.0%	8857	100.0%

- Of youth referred by the school to law enforcement, only a very small percentage (2.3%) were referred for very serious offenses (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> degree).
- The majority of school-based delinquency complaints (51.3%) were for DP/PDP: low-level, disorderly persons and petty disorderly persons offenses (i.e., “misdemeanors”).
- Of all DP/PDP school-based complaints, criminal mischief; criminal trespass; disorderly conduct; and harassment account for 21%.

# What is Clogging the “Pipeline”?

- Use of exclusionary discipline – suspensions, expulsions, an arrests instead of creative discipline and educational and counseling services.
- Zero tolerance policies – pre-determined consequences or punishment for specific offenses.
  - Firearms
  - Violence
  - Alcohol
- The overreliance on student resources officers (SRO’s).

# Impact of the “School-to-Prison Pipeline”

- The statistics are irrefutable.
- With the increase in suspensions, expulsions, and arrests there is...
  - Loss of instruction time;
  - Increased relationship with anti-social peers;
  - Feelings of rejection; and
  - Fosters school failure, especially amongst;
    - Youth of color
    - Students with disabilities
    - LGBTQ community

# At a Time When We Want to Increase Graduation Rates

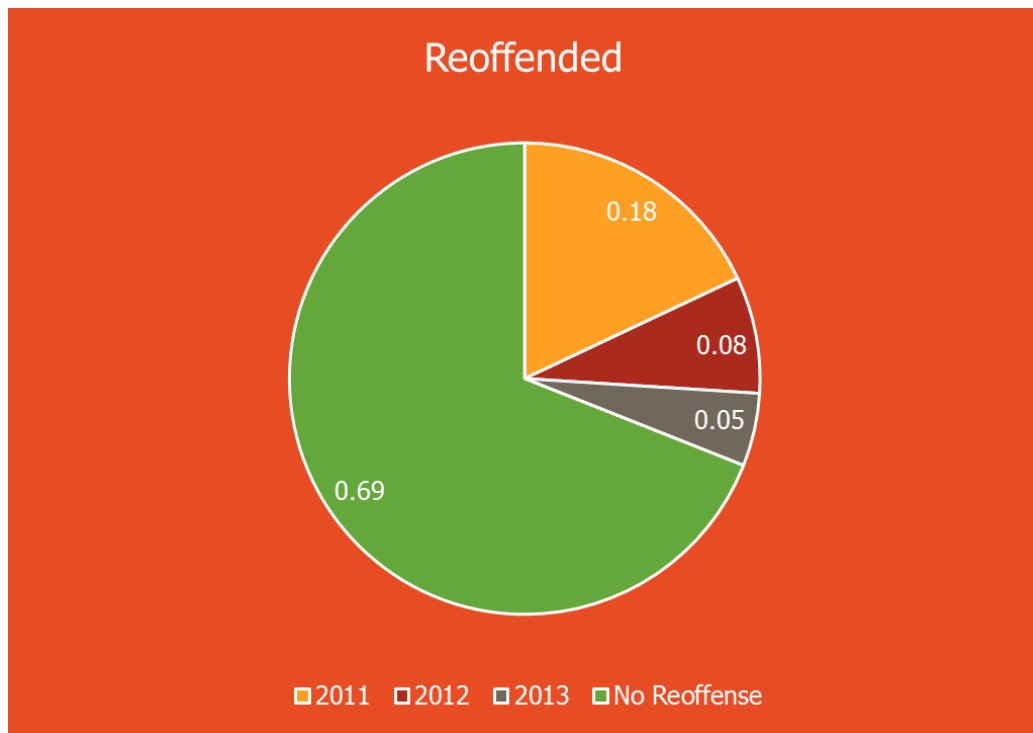


A student arrested on campus is ***twice*** as likely to drop out.

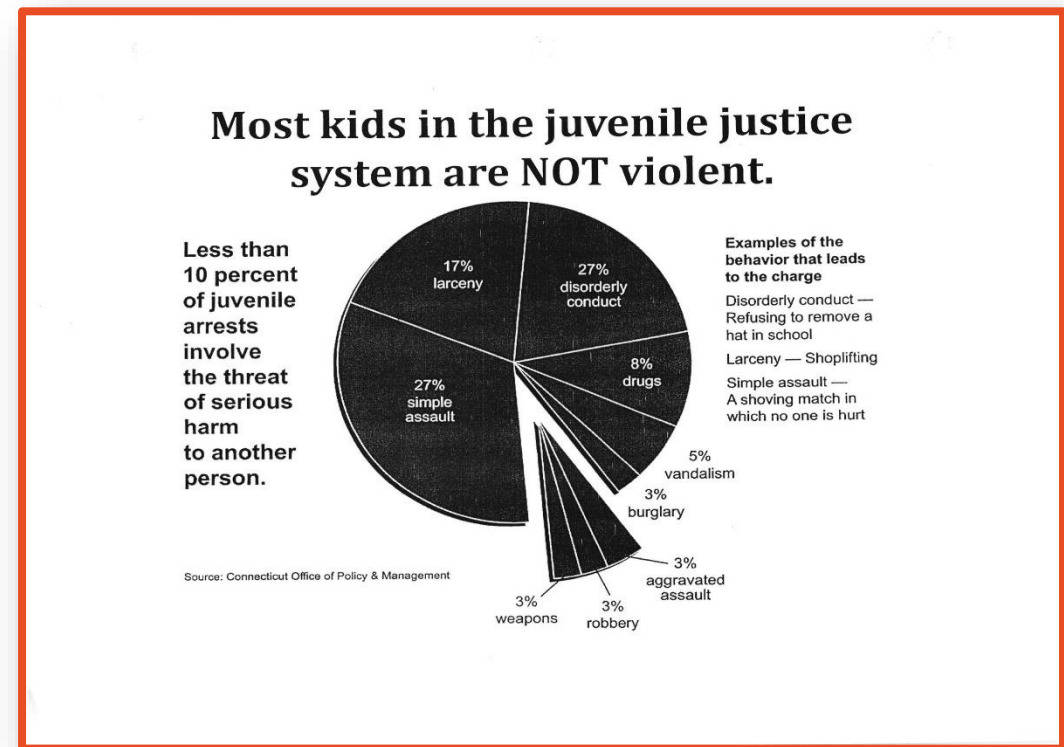


A student who appears in court is ***four times*** as likely to drop out.

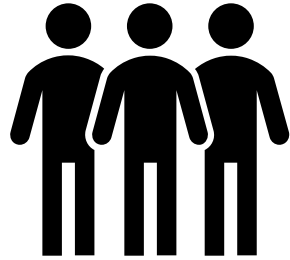




Recognizing the difference  
between the kids that scare us  
vs. those that make us mad.

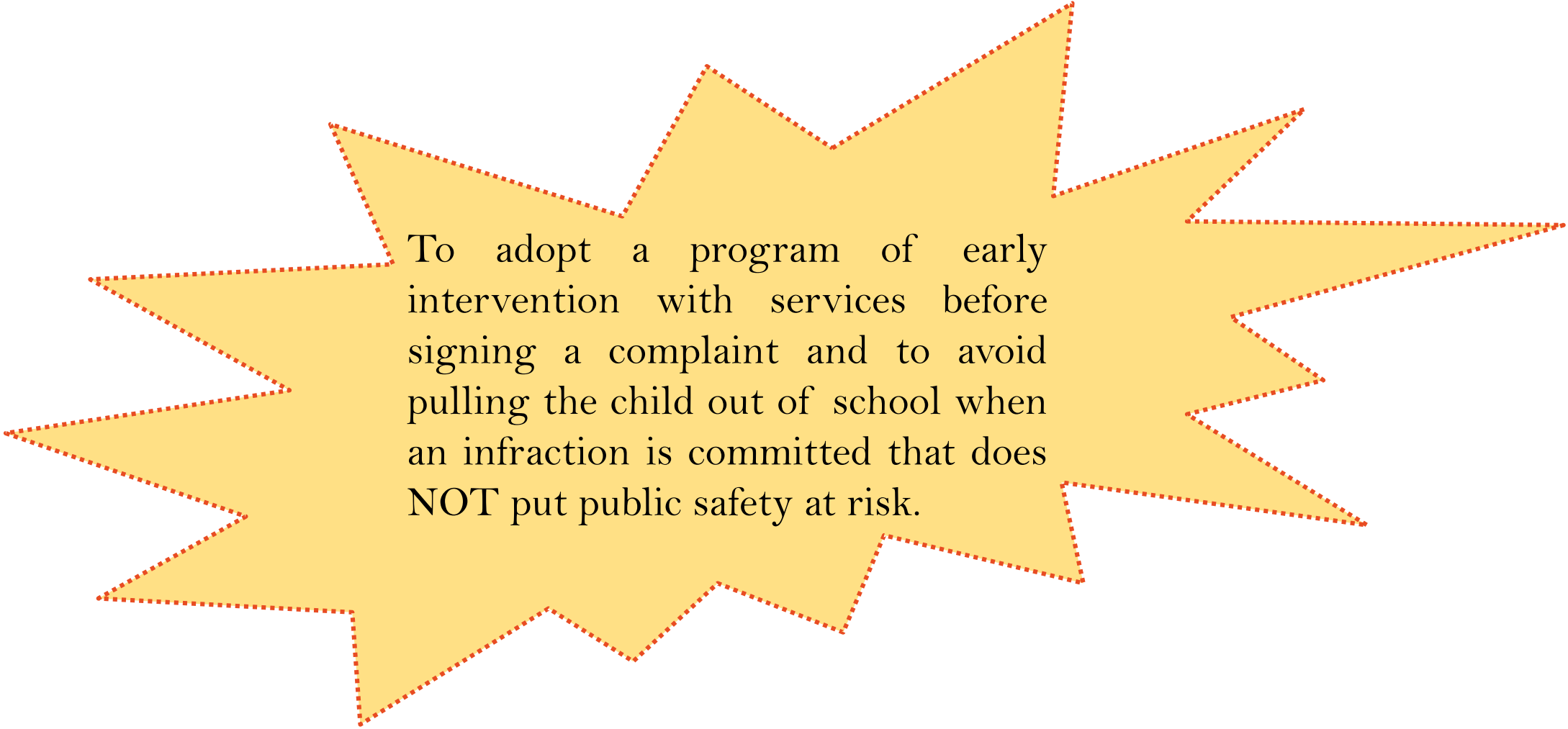


Be cognizant of the statistics.



Recognizing the difference between  
the low risk and the high need youth.


# Partnership and Collaboration to Create Solutions



To adopt a program of early intervention with services before signing a complaint and to avoid pulling the child out of school when an infraction is committed that does NOT put public safety at risk.

# Middlesex County School/Justice Partnership Initiatives

## INNOVATIONS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK BEFORE POLICE WORK



Hosted By: Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office  
Moderator: First AP Christopher L. C. Kuberiet

**Morning Speakers (9:00 am – 12:00 pm):**

The Honorable Andrew C. Carey, Prosecutor, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office  
The Honorable Mary Casey, New Brunswick Municipal Court  
Chief Harry Earle, Gloucester Township Police Department  
AP Anthony Pierro, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

Overview of services through DCF-Children's System of Care (CSOC)  
Representatives from PerformCare, Mobile Response/Family Crisis Intervention Unit,  
Care Management Organization, Family Support Organization

Principal Donna Jakubik, Sayreville Middle School & Doreen Consulmagno, Sayreville SAC  
Sgt. Tim Lombardo, Det. Frank Zavis, Det. Alan Houck, Edison PD &  
Judith Amrein, Edison Juvenile Aid Bureau

**Lunch Break (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm)**

**Afternoon Speakers (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)**


Nancy Curry, Director, Office of Student Support Services, NJ Department of Education  
Kelly Allen, School Climate Specialist, NJ Department of Education  
Denise Anne Thomas, Esq., Office of the Public Defender

**Panel Discussion (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm)**


**February 3, 2017, 9am – 4pm  
Middlesex County Fire Academy  
Lunch to be provided**

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/InnovationsinJJ>

Target Audience: Police Chiefs/ Directors, School District Superintendents, School Resource Officers,  
Juvenile Aide Bureau Officers, Student Assistant Coordinators, School/Guidance Counselors, and  
Truancy/Residency Officers



## Student SUCCESS .... Through .... SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP



Hosted By: Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office

October 4, 2017 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Middlesex County Fire Academy

Moderated By  
Christopher L. C. Kuberiet  
First Assistant Prosecutor, Middlesex County

<p><b><u>Morning Guest Speakers</u></b></p> <p>9:00 AM - 9:30 AM</p> <p>"Welcoming Remarks" The Honorable Andrew C. Carey Middlesex County Prosecutor</p> <p>"Memorandum of Agreement Between Law Enforcement and Educators / Stationhouse Adjustments" Christopher L. C. Kuberiet First Assistant Prosecutor, Middlesex County</p> <p>9:30 AM - 12:00 PM</p> <p>"3rd Gear Policing: A Community Policing Response to At-Risk Youth and Families" Chief Harry Earle Gloucester Township Police Department</p> <p>Philadelphia's Diversionary Program Deputy Chief Kevin Bethel Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</p> <p>"Contributing Factors to Student Success or Student Failure" George Scott, L.M.F.T.</p> <p>The Boggs Center, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools Sharon Lohrmann, PhD</p>	<p><b><u>* Lunch to be Provided *</u></b></p> <p>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</p> <p><b><u>Breakout Discussions / Presenters</u></b></p> <p>1:00 PM - 1:30 PM</p> <p>NJ Children's System of Care Funding For Programs Through Grants Effective School Solutions, LLC. George Scott, L.M.F.T. The Busch Law Group Division of Child Protection and Permanency</p> <p><b><u>Description of Sessions Found with Registration</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Afternoon Guest Speaker</u></b></p> <p>1:45 PM - 3:00 PM</p> <p>"Establishing Effective School Justice Partnerships" The Honorable Steven C. Teske Juvenile Judge, State of Georgia</p> <p><b><u>Panel Discussion</u></b></p> <p>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Questions and Answers</p>
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**Target Audience:** School District Superintendents, School Administrators, Student Assistance Counselors, Police  
Chiefs/Police Directors, Student Resource Officers, Juvenile Aide Bureau Officers, Truancy/Residency Officers.

# Middlesex County School/Justice Partnership Initiatives

[illegible]

School-generated complaints; children charged with low-level offenses in school.

\_\_\_\_\_, Superintendent  
\_\_\_\_\_, School District  
STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE ZIP CODE

RE: State in the Interest of \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_:


Attached hereto please find a copy of a juvenile delinquency complaint. Upon your review of this document, it would appear as if this matter occurred either on school grounds or involves students attending one of the schools under your supervision. As such, it is respectfully requested that the complainant be reviewed by you with an eye towards if being referred to your office for handling on the local level. If this matter proceeds in the ordinary course, it is likely to be diverted from the Juvenile Justice System with little or no supervision or sanction being imposed. If the matter is handled locally by your office, an intervention plan could be developed and implemented which would be highlighted by a regimen of creative discipline. It is generally felt that the juvenile would be less likely to recidivate and would be more responsive to the intervention plan imposed and monitored by school authorities on a daily basis. If you feel that stationhouse adjustment is needed in order to assist you in the implementation of this intervention plan, do not hesitate to contact me and I will be more than willing to refer you to your local juvenile aide bureau so that the stationhouse adjustment can be drafted and utilized.

I am forwarding this complaint to you for your review and hopefully you will accept the responsibility that was outlined above. With that being said, if it is your belief that public safety or the safety of others in one of your schools would be at risk, please notify the undersigned so that position immediately and the complaint will proceed in the ordinary course.

In addition, by copy of this letter, the undersigned is notifying the complainant of the State's proposed handling of the complaint that they signed and have requested that they contact the undersigned with any input they might have.

Review of complaint by  
Prosecutor's Office;  
referred back to local  
jurisdiction.

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
135 Jackson Avenue  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
908.754.4620 x333  
Email: [rdieh@spboe.org](mailto:rdieh@spboe.org)




June 28, 2016

Dear Mr. Kuoerlet,

Per your request as First Assistant Middlesex County Prosecutor, with regards to an incident that occurred on Thursday June 9, 2016 involving a fourth grade student using a computer and another student's password to send unauthorized and inappropriate material to classmates who attend Roosevelt Elementary School, the following actions have been taken by the District:

- The Roosevelt School Principal, Mr. Robert Diehl, contacted the offices of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to inform them of the situation.
- The Roosevelt Student Assistance Counselor, [REDACTED], was contacted as well as the South Plainfield Police Department.
- A copy of the inappropriate material was shared with the South Plainfield Police Department.
- Roosevelt Elementary School Computer teacher, [REDACTED] was instructed to delete all inappropriate material.
- The first parent conference was conducted on June 13, 2016 to determine if the student sent the message.
  - o The student admitted to sending the material.
- The Principal of Roosevelt conducted a second parent conference on June 14, 2016, to assign discipline.
- In alignment with district policy, the student who sent the material, would receive a four day out-of-school suspension for using another student's password and sending unauthorized and inappropriate material to classmates using a computer.
- Via telephone to the parents, it was explained to the parents that the student would be admitted to Grant School in September 2016, after the South Plainfield School District receives a document proving that a psychological evaluation of the student has been performed.
- [REDACTED] The principal of Grant School, was also apprised of the situation and will be working with administration to pass the appropriate scheduling and enrolling for the 2016-2017 school year.
- Parents of students who were known to have viewed the material, were contacted by Mr. Diehl and informed if the student whose name was connected to the material did not send the material and steps were being taken to prevent any future incident of this type.

Please contact me if you need additional information or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Robert C. Diehl  
Principal, Roosevelt Elementary School

Local school/LE actions  
steps and disciplinary  
response to child's  
behavior/offense.

# Getting to the Bottom Line...

- Signing a complaint, sending it to the county is easy, with no liability, but it is not the answer.
  - Delays intervention
  - Not efficient
  - Lacks the resources
  - When the complaint is finally dealt with the justice system, the child has already been suspending or has been expelled and we are trying to put the pieces back together in the Family Court.
- Prior to signing a complaint, law enforcement and educators must think and ask...“What am I trying to accomplish?”



# Breaking the Pipeline is in the Best Interest of...



Society

Public Safety



Law Enforcement

Schools



Students



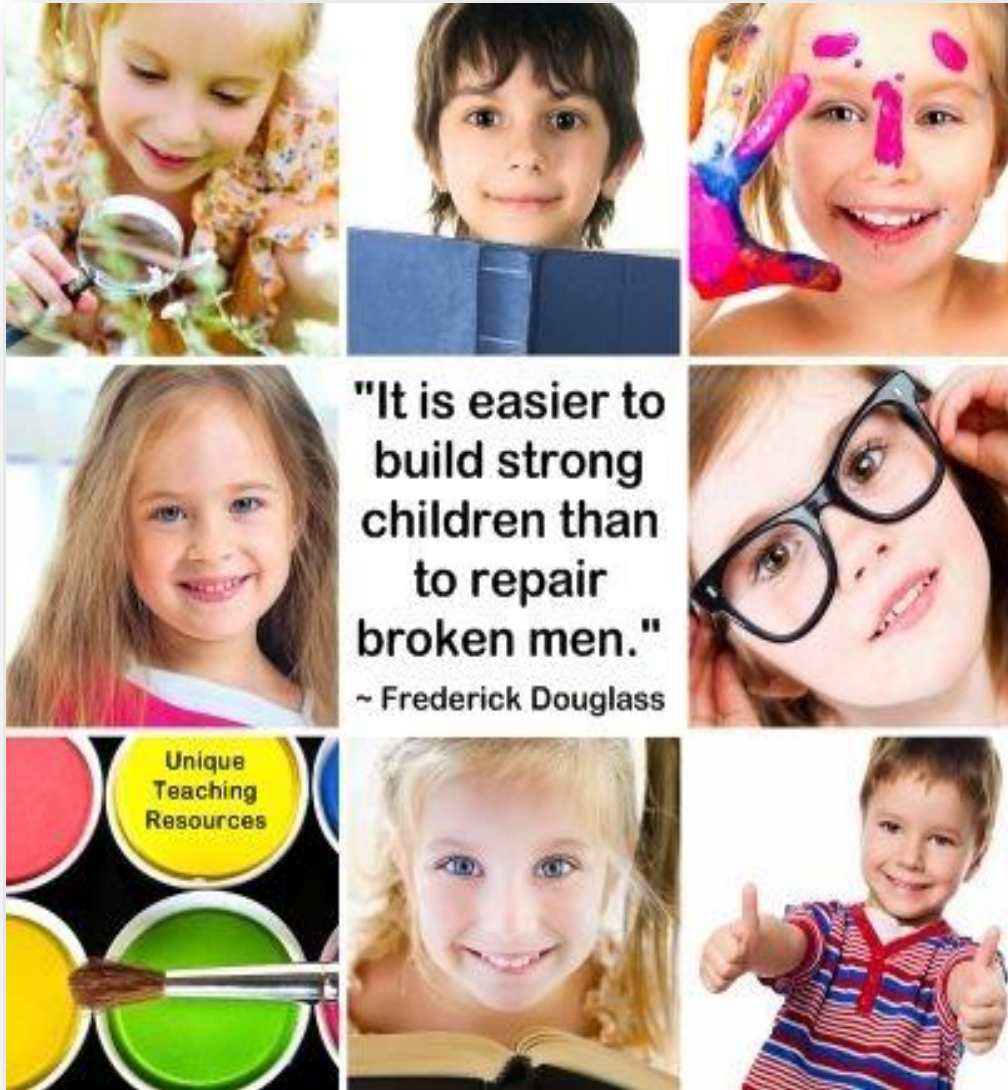
Everyone



# My Kool-Aid Moment

“A Child We Have Jailed Is a  
Child We Have Failed.”





**"It is easier to  
build strong  
children than  
to repair  
broken men."**

**~ Frederick Douglass**

**Unique  
Teaching  
Resources**



**FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR  
CHRISTOPHER L.C. KUBERIET**

**(732) 406-7022 – CELL  
(732) 745-3047 – OFFICE**

**[Christopher.Kuberiet@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:Christopher.Kuberiet@co.middlesex.nj.us)**